

## Message Text

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TAGS: SOPN, US

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE SEPTEMBER 4, 1976

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF UNSIGNED NYT ARTICLE

"CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY RISING IN US., POLL INDICATES"

BEGIN TEXT: A NEW SURVEY OF AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD  
FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES HOLDS THAT CONCERNS FOR NATIONAL  
SECURITY HAVE RISEN IN RECENT MONTHS.

BUT THE DATA ASSEMBLED BY POTOMAC ASSOCIATES, A WASHINGTON-  
BASED RESEARCH GROUP, INDICATES THAT A WIDELY PREDICTED  
SHARP TURN TOWARD ISOLATIONIST POSITIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE  
INDOCHINA WARS HAS NOT TAKEN PLACE.

THE SURVEY OF 1,071 PERSONS WAS DESIGNED BY WILLIAM WATTS  
AND LLOYD A. FREE OF POTOMAC ASSOCIATES AND CONDUCTED FOR  
THEM BY THE GALLUP ORGANIZATION OF PRINCETON, N.J. THE  
RESULTS WERE PUBLISHED IN FOREIGN POLICY MAGAZINE.

THE AUTHOR CONCLUDES FROM THE SURVEY THAT OVER THE LAST  
TWO YEARS A MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAVE COOLED TOWARD THE  
UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

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AT THE SAME TIME, THE SURVEY SHOWED, AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY VIEW "KEEPING OUR MILITARY AND DEFENSE FORCES STRONG" AS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY. THE RATING ON THIS ITEM WAS 81 ON A SCALE OF 100, UP FROM 74 IN A COMPARABLE SURVEY CONDUCTED TWO YEARS AGO.

#### DOMESTIC ISSUES PREVAIL

STILL, THE AUTHORS POINT OUT, THIS CONCERN RANKED IN 11TH PLACE IN AN ENUMERATION OF NATIONAL PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE POLL. IT WAS PRECEDED BY 10 DOMESTIC ISSUES.

OTHER FOREIGN-POLICY CONCERNS RATED IN THE SURVEY WERE THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR-WEAPONS CAPABILITY TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THE NEED FOR "MAINTAINING RESPECT" FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE DANGER OF THE UNITED STATES BECOMING INVOLVED IN A LARGE WAR AND THE DESIRABILITY OF "MAINTAINING CLOSE RELATIONS" WITH OUR ALLIES.

THE SURVEY ALSO ASKED RESPONDENTS WHERE THEY HAD NOTED "PROGRESS" IN THE ADMINISTRATION'S CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

IN THE MAJORITY OPINION, THERE WERE DECLINES IN THE HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH CHINA, IN HELPING NEGOTIATE A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, IN GENERALLY EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS AND IN DEALING WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

WITH REGARD TO SOVIET RELATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PARALLEL SURVEY OF 1974 SHOWED 66 OF 100 FELT THERE HAD BEEN A 'SENSE OF PROGRESS.' BUT IN THE 1976 SURVEY ONLY 57 OF 100 SAW ;PROGRESS."

#### FEAR OF BOYCOTT DECLINES

THE POLL SHOWED THAT AMERICANS FELT THERE HAD BEEN IMPROVEMENT IN MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS WITH BRITAIN, FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY, AS WELL AS IN THE HANDLING OF INTERNATIONAL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND FOREIGN TRADE PROBLEMS. THE SURVEY INDICATED THAT AMERICANS HAD OVERCOME

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THEIR WORST FEARS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY CRISIS AND THE ARAB OIL BOYCOTT OF 1973-74.

SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS ALSO REFLECTED IN RESPONSES TO OTHER QUESTIONS. TWO YEARS AGO, THE PARALLEL SURVEY FOUND THAT ONLY 10 PER CENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED FELT RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WOULD ;GET WORSE," WHILE 27 PER CENT

THOUGHT THEY WOULD "GET BETTER." THE 1976 POLL SHOWED

19 PERCENT BELIEVING RELATIONS WOULD WORSEN AND 23 PERCENT THINKING THEY WOULD IMPROVE.

THERE WAS A SIMILAR SKEPTICAL TREND ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA. THE SURVEY ALSO SHOWED A COOLER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE UNITED NATIONS.

#### ISOLATIONIST TREND

AS FOR THE TENDENCIES TOWARD ISOLATIONISM, THE AUTHORS CONTENDED THAT THE SURVEY, COMPARED TO OTHER DATA ASSEMBLED OVER THE LAST 12 YEARS SHOWED THE PERCENTAGE OF "TOTAL ISOLATIONISTS" HAD INCREASED ALMOST THREE-FOLD FROM 8 PERCENT TO 23 PERCENT.

STILL, INTERNATIONALIST SENTIMENTS CONTINUED TO HOLD SWAY WITH A PLURALITY OF 44 PERCENT.

AMERICANS, THE SURVEY INDICATED, ARE ROUGHLY DIVIDED OVER WHETHER THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ACTIVELY OPPOSE THE SPREAD OF COMMUNIST FORCES AROUND THE WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME THE POLL SHOWED THAT A GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICANS FEEL THE UNITED STATES SHOULD ATTEMPT TO BE "THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION"--52 PERCENT THIS YEAR AS OPPOSED TO 42 PERCENT TWO YEARS AGO. END TEXT.

ROBINSON

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